



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
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VETO MESSAGE FROM THE
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
REGARDING SENATE BILL 1 OF THE
2022 REGULAR SESSION

Received of
Senate Clerk's Office
Date: 4/6/22 DRH

8:55pm

I, Andy Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to the authority granted under Section 88 of the Kentucky Constitution, do hereby veto the following:

Senate Bill 1 of the 2022 Regular Session of the General Assembly in its entirety.

I am vetoing Senate Bill 1 because it lessens, if not eliminates, the participation and input of parents in making decisions on both school personnel and curriculum, and represents a step backward for public education in the Commonwealth.

Senate Bill 1 gives superintendents the ultimate authority to hire principals and select the curriculum in our public schools, taking that authority away from school-based decision-making councils. Those school councils include teacher and parent representation. Accordingly, Senate Bill 1 weakens the voices of parents and teachers – those with the most direct contact with students – in decision-making in their schools. Many in the General Assembly have voiced their support of the vital role of parents in their children's education. This bill lessens that role and marginalizes parents.

Senate Bill 1 also unfairly singles out the Jefferson County Public Schools by, among other provisions, arbitrarily restricting how often its school board can meet. A governing board should meet however many times it needs to in order to carry out its mission.

In addition, with Senate Bill 1 the General Assembly, without appropriating any additional funds for the standards revision process, inserts itself into the decision-making of the curriculum of local school districts. This again supplants and lessens the role of parents and locally elected school boards in making decisions about the curriculum for their children and the children of their district.

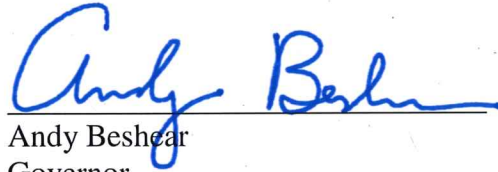
Senate Bill 1 further attempts to dictate how teachers talk about U.S. history, and mandates that a specific set of historical documents and speeches be incorporated into classroom work. These texts were not selected by historians or scholars, but by a political body. Notably, the historical documents and speeches that Senate Bill 1 requires to be taught in Kentucky classrooms include A Time for Choosing by Ronald Regan, which is a political speech delivered during the 1964

presidential campaign. The fact that this text is included over others like Dwight Eisenhower's statement to troops in advance of the D-Day invasion suggests the bill is aimed more at politics than at history. The list also excludes the full spectrum of diverse voices that make up our history, including Native American voices.

Finally, Senate Bill 1 tries to police classroom discussions on topics such as race. These are discussions our children are having with or without adults in our schools. Prescribing a rigid approach to what must be "taught" in those discussions will lessen if not erase them. For the future of our country, American children and adults must be able to exercise their First Amendment rights and have important discussions free of government censorship.

For these reasons, I am vetoing Senate Bill 1.

This, the 6th day of April, 2022.


Andy Beshear
Governor